

# EDITORIAL

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## LAW INTERPRETATION

The need for a careful and fair interpretation of the new mining law of the Philippines, and of all laws affecting the mining industry directly and indirectly, becomes more and more apparent as mining increases in importance.

Legislation in general, and the mining law of the Philippines in particular, is as effective and as impartial as those who interpret it. It is impossible to draw up any law that is so comprehensive as to make the attitudes of those who carry it out anything but all-important.

The Mining Law and the Securities Act are both comprehensive and drastic in their provisions; at the present their effect seems to be one of retarding the mining industry. The original intention was undoubtedly otherwise, but the result has arisen from too hasty consideration in the enactments. Many provisions of these laws were taken bodily from similar acts in the United States which have since proven unworkable and have been discarded.

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## THE MARSMAN MAGAZINE

*Published each month for Marsman & Company, Inc., Marsman Building, Port Area, Manila, Philippines. P. O. Box 297*

*The magazine is sent to all stockholders of Marsman managed properties and to all staff members of the companies associated with the Marsman interests.*

**NOTE:** *All ore values, bullion figures, etc., given in this magazine are expressed in pesos based on gold at \$35.00 an ounce and silver at the market price. Figures given in monthly reports are based on mine assays, and may differ to some extent from final mint or smelter returns.*

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**SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, P5 A YEAR.**

**RALPH KEELER, Editor and Business Manager**

**EDITORIAL** (Continued from p. 23)

Much, of course, depends not only upon interpretation but also upon administration. There should always exist a friendly cooperation between the government and private enterprise of any kind, if industry is to flourish. This is particularly true in the case of an industry comparatively new to the country, as is mining to the Philippines.

Many complexities have developed, and others will inevitably be encountered from time to time. Amendments to the present laws will undoubtedly be-

come necessary. Useless but annoying restrictions should be speedily eliminated. Simplicity should be the keynote of all such legislation.

Now is the time for thoughtful study, not only on the part of governmental administrative entities and legislators, but also by the Chamber of Mines and private enterprise. Defects in the laws should be remedied, otherwise a promising industry will succumb through slow strangulation.

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